Support for Amendments

predict the supply quantity. In addition, the life cycle modeling section 12 carries out life cycle modeling of multi-generation products. A detailed description of this device is given later.

The estimating section 13 calculates environmental impact and cost of the entire series of multi-generation products. The display device 14 displays the contents of the system operation or operation result such as processing result, input contents or input screen. The input/output device 15 is provided as a man-machine interface with the user (a life cycle planner). This device includes a keyboard or a pointing device provided as an input device and a printer or an audio device and the like provided as an output device.

The environmental impact information data base (DB) 16 is provided as a data base storing environmental impact information concerning the steps of material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery, discarding and environmental impact information produced during reuse of parts and material recycling. These information items are acquired by an LCA tool. The cost information data base (DB) 17 stores cost information concerning the steps of material acquisition for products, manufacturing, distribution, use, recovery, and discarding and cost information produced during

and places them on the screen of a display device 14 (step S11 in FIG. 3). That is, the names of parts that configure products are displayed as symbols, and are pasted on the screen.

The user can specify paste positions of the names of the iconized parts arbitrarily only by moving the icon position using the mouse.

For example, the appearances of the above operation are as shown in FIG. 4A, FIG. 4B, FIG. 5A, FIG. 5B, and FIG. 6. First, the user pastes an icon 31 that iconizes part names of the next generation products targeted to be assembled by reuse parts and material recycling at a desired position of the screen (FIG. 5A). Similarly, if the next target parts are present, the associated part name is iconized, and is pasted as an icon 33 obtained by such iconization on the screen (FIG. 5B). In this example, the first pasted icon 33 is for parts of a liquid crystal display provided as a next generation product, and the second pasted icon 34 is for parts of a notebook type personal computer provided as a next generation product. These parts configure the next generation products, and thus, the user allocates both of the icons 33 and 34 to be close to each other. This allocation state is shown in FIG. 5B.

Further, if there is another product targeted to be assembled by reuse parts and material recycling,

manufactured products" or the like.

That is, when grouping terminates, the life cycle modeling section 12 controls input windows w1, w2, and w3 for inputting product information on one of the grouped products to be displayed on the screen of the display device 14 for each group, as shown in FIG. 7 (for example, popup display). Therefore, the user inputs product information on one of the grouped products by using the above input windows w1, w2, and w3, for example, by keyboard operation. This state is shown in FIG. 8A, FIG. 8B, and FIG. 9.

When product information on one of the thus grouped products has been inputted by using the above input windows w1, w2, and w3, a directed link is then established between parts to be reused and between parts targeted for material recycling (step S14 in FIG. 3).

This is accomplished by the user operating a pointing device such as mouse i.e., thereby making a drag and drop operation for icons for the grouped part names to draw a line.

In this example, as shown in FIG. 10A, a mouse cursor is first placed in the icon 32. Then, a line 37 is drawn between them by a drag and drop operation for the icon 34 using the mouse. In this manner, a processor 10 displays an image as shown in FIG. 10A on the screen of the display device 14 while the line

37 with the arrow toward the icon 34 is drawn on the image. The life cycle modeling section 12 recognizes that an association with the icons 32 to 34 has been achieved.

Next, the user places the mouse cursor in the icon 31, and then, draws a line 38 between them by a drag and drop operation toward the icon 35 using the mouse. In this manner, the processor 10 displays an image as shown in FIG. 10B on the screen of the display device 14 while the line 38 with the arrow from the icon 31 to the icon 35 is drawn on the image. The life cycle modeling section 12 recognize that association from the icon 31 to the icon 35 has been achieved.

Next, the user clicks an arbitrary point of the lines 37 and 38 with the arrow by using the mouse. Then, a screen for selection of reuse of parts or material recycling pops up. When any of these selections is made, the line is specified as association for reuse of parts or association for material recycling. In this example, assuming that reuse of parts are selected and determined, the life cycle modeling section 12 recognizes that the lines 37 and 38 has been associated with each other for the purpose of reuse of parts. Then, the processor 10 displays reuse at the positions of the lines 37 and 38 on the screen accordingly. The screen on which the above processing terminates is shown in FIG. 11.